Tracking Russian Information Campaigns in Brazil

VIRTUAL STUDENT FEDERAL SERVICE

VSFS

Project Title	Tracking Russian Information Campaigns in Brazil
Project Summary	Help Mission Brazil better understand Russian efforts to influence Brazilian audiences through digital media by reporting on and analyzing trends and audience.
Country	Brazil

Project Description

Russian state media is hard at work influencing foreign publics, including in Brazil. Understanding their methodologies, target audiences, and audience response is of critical importance to the United States. Knowing how Russia is working to influence Brazilians, both on matters of relevance to the United States and our bilateral relationship with Brazil, helps inform our own efforts to communicate with Brazilian audiences. As Brazil approaches its presidential election in late 2018, this work will also help inform our understanding of the political landscape.

The intern who takes on this project will be required to monitor digital media sources, including social media, for content specifically targeted at Brazilian audiences, in the Portuguese language. Each week or two weeks (to be determined with the supervisor) the intern will prepare a summary of the most relevant articles, videos, and other products (including social media posts by significant influencers) CONTINUED BELOW

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

Analytical writing

Political Analysis

Research

Writing

Additional Information

that show how influence campaigns are being used in two thematic areas: disinformation against the United States; and influencing public opinion on key political actors and issues of importance to Brazilian audiences. Reporting should include brief (one paragraph) summaries of key articles, videos, and other products, and a summary of any comments and further reach of products and posts. Ongoing audience analysis will also be helpful including audience size, identification of key social media influencers, and analysis of posts and comments to determine if content is authentic or computer-generated (i.e. bots). Content to be focused on for this project is to be Portuguese language content created specifically for Brazilian audiences.

Specific knowledge and skills desired: the intern should have solid knowledge of digital media, including how social media is used for influence campaigns; how to navigate such platforms; ability to identify and analyze trends; ability to identify various types of information and content generators; ability to identify topics of relevance to the U.S. Mission; and ability to succinctly summarize information and trends for users in the U.S. Mission.

Language Requirements

Language	Speaking Proficiency	Reading Proficiency	Importance
Portuguese	Minimum professional proficiency	Full professional proficiency	Required
Russian	Minimum professional proficiency	Minimum professional proficiency	Nice to Have